

Harsha Terms Rent Plan 'Preposterous'

WASHINGTON — Congress man William H. Harsha of Ohio's 6th District today labeled the Johnson administration's rent subsidy proposal as "one of the most preposterous schemes devised by mankind." It reminds one of the days of the Roman circus and bread dole, he said.

"It offers something for practically everyone and will take the drudgery out of home ownership. As a matter of fact it kills the incentive of the American family to improve its living accommodations by its own efforts; it kills the incentive of home ownership; it actually places an incentive on poverty; it makes renters wards of the government; and it is about the last step down the path of socialism," the Ohio lawmaker charged.

"In the first place," Harsha said, "the proposed rent subsidies could go to families who earn as much as \$11,300 a year, or nearly twice the median national family income, and provide the mechanism for extending rent dotes to more than half of the families in America. It is referred to as an experimental program but it makes available \$200 million per year over a 40-year period, or a potential of \$8 billion, and that's a waste of an experiment in anybody's language," Harsha chided.

THE LEGISLATOR gave the following analysis and examples of how the rent subsidy proposal works:

"Under section 101(d) of the bill the Housing Administrator may subsidize a tenant's rent in an amount up to the difference between the fair market rental for the unit and one-fourth of the tenant's income. That formula kills the incentive of the American family to improve its living accommodations by its own efforts.

"A family with \$3,000 a year income — \$250 a month — could live in a \$100-a-month apartment and pay rent of only \$62.50 a month (one-fourth of income) with the government providing a subsidy of \$37.50 a month (difference between one-fourth of tenant's income and market rent for the unit). The disincentive of the family to improve its housing accommodations is readily apparent.

"Should that \$250 a month family's income increase to \$300 a month, its rent payment would increase to \$75 a month and the Federal subsidy would drop to \$25 a month. And, of course, if the family's income increased to \$400 a month, it would pay the full market rent of \$100 a month as one-fourth of family income of \$400 a month would equal full market rent for the unit. In other words, the family with \$250 a month income has no incentive to improve its living accommodations by increasing its earnings to enable it to rent better accommodations. It can live in the same accommodations with \$250 a month income as it could if it increased its income to \$400 a month. In other words, an incentive is placed on poverty, since the Administration chooses to use the figure of \$3,000 as being in the poverty classification.

"The formula also produces another type of disincentive to a family improving its living accommodations by its own efforts. That \$250 a month-income family might decide it wants to live in a \$200-a-month apartment instead of the \$100-a-month unit. Under the formula it could do so. And under the other proposed provisions of this section, this still would be true.

"The primary requirement for a qualified tenant is that he be unable to obtain standard privately owned housing at a rental no more than one-fourth of his income. As far as the proposed law is concerned, that standard housing could be standard housing suitable to the tenant's needs or suitable to his desires. The administrator could decide either way. The family would pay the same one-fourth of its income as rent or \$62.50 a month and the government would pay an increased subsidy of \$137.50 a month to make up the balance of the fair market rent for the unit. Under the formula the way to better housing is increased Federal subsidy rather than increased individual effort."

"ANOTHER EXAMPLE would be a family living in New York with a total family annual income of \$13,300. Under the housing law up to \$2,400 is allowed as exemptions, not countable in tabulating total family income. With the exemptions, this leaves total annual income of \$8,900. One-fourth of this is \$2,225 a monthly figure of about \$185. This family could live in an apartment costing \$300 per month, and the government would subsidize the difference between \$185 and \$300, or \$115 per month.

"When another head of a family earning \$400 a month and paying \$100 a month rent with out any help from Uncle Sam-

saw his neighbor, earning far less than he was able to move into a much better apartment with no increase in his rent payments, he suddenly would wake up to the possibility of the formula. This family otherwise eligible for rent supplements, by free choice could be living in standard but crowded quarters. The head of the family simply does not want to allocate more than \$100 a month of his income to housing. With the balance of his income he prefers to enjoy other amenities of life, such as a second car or an extra week's vacation.

"Rent supplements is his easy way out. He would be eligible for subsidy in a more expensive apartment. He, too, would move to the \$200-a-month apartment. He would continue to pay only \$100 a month of his income as rent because the government would provide the other \$100 a month necessary to cover the market rent for the unit.

"This formula is a formula for killing the American incentive system of improving one's lot by one's own effort. This would be keeping up with the Joneses via Federal subsidies."

"TO OWN one's own home, no matter how modest, is the goal of the typical American family. The rent supplement kills the incentive of a family to achieve that goal. Under FHA underwriting standards a family with \$3,000-a-year income can afford to purchase a home costing 2½ times that amount or a \$7,500 home. The housing cost of such a home would approximate \$60 a month. But as noted in the illustration above, the \$3,000-a-year family by paying \$62.50 a month as rent could live in a partially federally subsidized \$100-a-month rental unit.

"The cost of such a dwelling unit would approximate \$12,500. Or, as above noted, that same family could also live in a \$200-a-month rental unit and pay only \$62.50 of its income a month as rent with the balance of \$137.50 paid by the government under the rent supplement formula. The cost of the \$200-a-month rental unit would approximate \$25,000. Why would a family strive to own a \$7,500 home when for approximately the same monthly outlay for housing it could rent \$12,500 or \$25,000 cost dwelling unit? Not alone would the rent supplement proposal kill incentive for homeownership, it also would be a powerful incentive for a family to discontinue homeownership and become a renter on the federal dole.

"That runs counter to the American way of life," Congressman Harsha concluded.

Raw Sewage Turned Into Fresh Water

LEBANON, Ohio (AP) — Alchemy, says the dictionary, is the process of transforming something common into something precious. Federal scientists here are close to doing just that.

They're transforming common sewage into precious water.

"We're sure we can make the equivalent of drinking water," says Francis M. Middleton, head of the project at a special center. It operates under the government's five-year \$3 million advanced water treatment program.

Potable water, however is not the goal. None of Lebanon's 7,000 residents will drink it. It's intended for agriculture and industry.

The water will be purer than it was originally. It also will be cheaper by almost 50 cents per 1,000 gallons than converting salt water into fresh water.

Middleton says the \$150,000 government facility expects to produce its first purified water around July 1.

Still Are Stills And Moonshiners

CHICAGO (AP) — Bootleg liquor still is a problem for U.S. agents.

More than 7,800 individuals were arrested for violations of Federal liquor laws during fiscal 1964, says Commerce Clearing House.

The government seized 4,748 distilleries and 6,837 stills in a drive which netted \$2.4 million worth of property affected by such liquor.

Although seizures of distilleries, stills, mash and property taken in raids were up from the previous years, the number of individuals arrested was down. Violations in 14 southern states accounted for more than 90 per cent of the distilleries seized and 85 per cent of the arrests.

In most cases, the 416 moonshiners convicted received long prison sentences.

FUGITIVES FROM THE FBI



Photos 1969

JOHN CESAR GROSSI

(In co-operation with J. Edgar Hoover, FBI director, this paper is running descriptive articles on the criminals wanted by the FBI.)

JOHN CESAR GROSSI is being sought by the FBI for unlawful interstate flight to avoid prosecution for theft by false pretenses.

On August 9, 1963, Grossi reportedly leased an automobile from a Dallas, Texas firm. He gave them a fraudulent check as the first payment and then left the state.

Grossi next allegedly used a borrowed credit card to purchase some \$1,500 worth of gasoline in several states and in Canada before the credit card was recovered.

On July 13, 1964, a Federal warrant was issued at Dallas for Grossi's arrest.

Also known as Jack Leslie Bowen, John Jack Grossi, Jack Albert Davidson, Roger Garland Dieckman, Giovanni Caesar Grossi, Jack Caesar Grossi, Jack Groves, Jack Robinson, John Cesar Row, Norman T. Teagans, George Edgar Van Buren, Jack Van Buren and Jack Dale Williams, the wanted man's occupations are cartoonist, commercial artist, marine salvager and salesman.

DESCRIPTION: Age, 37; Born, Paterson, N.J. (not supported by birth records); Height, 6 feet; Weight, 150 to 220; Build, medium to heavy; Hair, brown; Eyes, blue; Complexion, ruddy. Has small moles on right side of face, scar on right index finger, scar on back of left hand, scar on right knee and scar on left shin.

INFORMATION concerning fugitive should be telephoned to the nearest FBI office. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

Cleveland's Orchestra Gets Red Carpet Welcome

CLEVELAND (AP) — Some members of the Cleveland Orchestra expressed surprise at the warmth of the welcome they received when they came home from their 10½ week tour of Russia and Western Europe.

The orchestra given rave notices throughout the tour, found more than 100 people waiting to greet them Saturday night at Cleveland Hopkins Airport. There was a red carpet, a 25-piece band playing festive music and youngsters waving "welcome home" signs.

It was the kind of a welcome a championship football team might get.

The consensus among members of the orchestra was that the tour was highly successful and that the State Department, which sponsored the trip, had not wasted its money.

Olin Trogdon, who plays double bass and also acts as personnel manager, said if he had to "pick out one highlight, it would have to be the response we received in Russia."

"In some places," he added,

"they almost broke the door down to hear us."

"Tremendous" and "very much a success" were some of the words used by others of the 107-member organization to describe the response.

Elmer Setzer, violinist, said the audiences "wouldn't let us stop. It is not like Cleveland," he added, referring to the insistent demand for encores at every stop of the tour.

Dr. Thomas W. Moir, tour physician, described the Russian people as "magnificent," and said as far as he was concerned

There is no problem between us except that created by the Russian bureaucracy and by our own bureaucracy. On a people-to-people basis it was great."

He said he hopes some day to return there as a professional doctor.

George Szell, orchestra conductor, did not return with the other members. He remained in Switzerland for a vacation.

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